

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2
INCIDENT NO. 2004-035
DATE: August 23, 2004 Time 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** Statewide Fires – Drought conditions in areas of high fuel content have led to fires ignited by various sources including weather activity, agricultural and industrial operations, recreation and other human activity. The State Operations Center (SOC) has received several reports of fires throughout the spring and summer months.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No change from the previous report.
3. **DAMAGES:** Fires recently reported to the SOC include:

Billings County: The U.S. Forest Service estimates the **Whitetail Fire**, which began 8/19/04, will be fully controlled on 8/24/04. The fire, approximately 600 acres in size, occurred 25 miles north of Medora. A multi-jurisdictional Type III response was instituted. By 8/20/04, the fire was 70 percent contained. The fire was fully contained on 8/22/04. Four fire trucks and ten firefighters are conducting mop up operations. The Whitetail Fire encompassed 493.13 acres, of which 405.64 were U.S. Forest Service lands and 87.49 belonged to the N.D. State Land Department.

Federal, state and local firefighters are also monitoring the **Magpie Camp Fire**, which was contained and controlled on 8/21/04. The perimeter of the fire extended 8.2 miles and involved 1,883 acres.

Bowman County: On 8/20/04, there was a stubble field fire 12 miles north of Scranton on the west side of N.D. Highway 67. The Scranton Fire Department responded. The 80-acre fire was contained in about 45 minutes.

Burleigh County: The Wing and Tuttle Fire Departments responded to a fire on 08/19/2004, northeast of Wing. The fire, estimated at 160 acres in size, was contained and extinguished.

Emmons County: A fire east of Strasburg burned about 40 acres before being contained and extinguished by the Strasburg, Linton and Zeeland Fire Departments. On 8/20/04, a combine started a wheat field fire located six miles northeast of Linton. Five acres were consumed by the blaze. The Linton Fire Department and the Emmons County Sheriff responded.

Sioux County: A hay bale fire, five and one half miles southwest of Prairie Knights Casino, was put out by the Fort Yates Fire Department on 8/22/04.

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: Responders included public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance services, elected officials and administrative offices.

STATE: The N.D. Game and Fish Department supplied firefighting support. Representatives from the Office of the Governor, N.D. National Guard, N.D. Forest Service, Division of Emergency Management/State Radio, State Fire Marshal's Office and State Land Department are monitoring the situation

FEDERAL: Dakota Prairie Grasslands (DPG) of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), have provided firefighting and equipment support. The National Weather Service (NWS) is monitoring weather conditions.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** No change from previous report.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** The U.S. Forest Service Grasslands Supervisor and North Dakota Forest Service Fire Coordinator withdrew a request for a Type II Team to manage the Whitetail Fire on 8/20/04. The request was withdrawn when firefighters managed to make significant progress in containing the fire.

A total of 136 personnel including five U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers were deployed to the White Tail fire along with one Type 3 helicopter, 11 engines, and two dozers.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** None requested at this time.

8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE:** No change from previous report.

9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director